



News & Events

University News & Information

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Cal Poly to Host International CubeSat Developers' Workshop

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Students, professors, industry representatives and others from as far away as Taiwan and Norway will converge on Cal Poly Friday and Saturday, April 9-10, for the first-ever CubeSat Developers' Workshop -- a workshop devoted entirely to the design and development of very small satellites also called picosatellites.

Almost 50 students, more than 30 faculty members and representatives from 27 universities, seven companies and two organizations from around the world are expected to attend.

It was a joint project -- begun in 1999 -- of Cal Poly and Stanford University's Space Systems Development Laboratory that developed standards for the design of picosatellites. As a result, picosatellites built by students at universities worldwide are launched using a common deployer known as a "P-POD," developed at Cal Poly.

"Today, multidisciplinary teams of graduate and undergraduate students at more than 30 colleges and universities are working to design, construct, test, launch and operate picosatellites," said Cal Poly Aerospace Engineering Professor Jordi Puig-Suari, faculty advisor to the CubeSat Project at Cal Poly. "The CubeSat Developers' Workshop will allow these individuals to network and discuss topics particularly relevant to cubesats.

"Most satellite conferences focus on industry professionals and issues relevant to satellites in general," Puig-Suari said. "Even 'small-satellite' conferences focus on satellites that are at least 10 times the size and mass of a cubesat. So we're very excited about the upcoming workshop, which will serve to reduce cost and development time and increase accessibility to space and the frequency of launches."

The CubeSat Workshop is being sponsored by Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, the California Space Authority and Northrop Grumman. Among the universities represented will be Cal Poly; Cornell; Hankuk Aviation University, Korea; Montana State University; National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan; Nihon University, Japan; the Norwegian

University of Science Technology; Stanford University; Taylor University, Indiana; the University of Arizona; the University of Hawaii; the University of Illinois; and the University of Kansas. The event's keynote speaker will be Professor Robert J. Twiggs, director of Stanford's Space Systems Development Laboratory, which has made three successful spacecraft launches of student-built cubesats.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: News coverage of the event is invited. The workshop opens with a welcome from College of Engineering Dean Peter Lee at 9 a.m. Friday, April 9, in the Keck Center in Cal Poly's Advanced Technology Laboratories.

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